



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

Docket No. USCG-2019-0442

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bronx River, Bronx, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is removing the existing drawbridge operation regulation for the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge across the Bronx River, mile 1.1, Bronx, New York. The drawbridge was replaced with a fixed bridge in December 2014 and the operating regulation is no longer applicable or necessary.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2019-0442. In the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this rulemaking.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this rule, call or e-mail Ms. Stephanie Lopez, Bridge Management Specialist, First Coast Guard District Bridge Program, telephone 212-514-4335, e-mail [Stephanie.E.Lopez@USCG.MIL](mailto:Stephanie.E.Lopez@USCG.MIL).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Table of Abbreviations**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	<b>Federal Register</b>
Pub. L.	Public Law
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code

### **II. Background Information and Regulatory History**

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge, that once required draw operations in 33 CFR 117.771(a), was replaced with a fixed bridge in December 2014. Therefore, the regulation 33 CFR 117.771 (a) is no longer applicable and shall be removed from publication. It is unnecessary to publish an NPRM because this regulatory action does not purport to place any restrictions on mariners but rather removes a restriction that has no further use or value.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective in less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. The bridge has been a fixed bridge over Bronx River for 54 months and this rule merely requires an administrative change to the Federal Register, in order to omit a regulatory requirement that is no longer applicable or necessary. The modification has already taken place and the removal of the regulation will not affect mariners currently operating on this waterway. Therefore, a delayed effective date is unnecessary.

### **III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule**

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority 33 U.S.C. 499.

The Bruckner Boulevard Bridge across the Bronx River, mile 1.1 was modified with a fixed bridge in December 2014. It has come to the attention of the Coast Guard that the governing regulation for this drawbridge was never removed subsequent to the completion of the fixed bridge that replaced the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge. The elimination of this drawbridge necessitates the removal of the drawbridge operation regulation, 33 CFR 117.771(a) and the modification of 33 CFR 117.771(c), that pertain to the former drawbridge.

The purpose of this rule is to remove the no longer applicable section of 33 CFR 117.771(a) and modify 33 CFR 117.771(c), which refers to the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge at mile 1.1, from the Code of Federal Regulations since it governs a bridge that is no longer able to be opened.

### **IV. Discussion of Final Rule**

The Coast Guard is changing the regulation in 33 CFR 117.771 by removing restrictions and eliminating regulatory burden related to draw operations for this bridge that is no longer a drawbridge. The change removes the section 33 CFR 117.771(a) of the regulation governing the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge since the bridge has been modified to a fixed bridge. This rule also modifies section 33 CFR 117.771(c) by removing reference to the requirement that the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge maintain clearance gauges. This Final Rule seeks to update the Code of Federal Regulations by removing language that governs the operation of the Bruckner Boulevard Bridge, which is no longer a

drawbridge. This change does not affect waterway or land traffic. This change does not affect nor does it alter the operating schedules in § 33 CFR 117.771 that govern the remaining active drawbridge on Bronx River and connecting waterways.

## **V. Regulatory Analyses**

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive Orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive Orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protesters.

### *A. Regulatory Planning and Review*

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. Executive Order 13771 directs agencies to control regulatory costs through a budgeting process. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and pursuant to OMB guidance it is exempt from the requirements of Executive Order 13771.

The Coast Guard does not consider this rule to be “significant” under that Order because it is an administrative change and does not affect the way vessels operate on the waterway. This regulatory action determination is based on the fact that the bridge was replaced by a fixed bridge and no longer operates as a drawbridge. The removal of the operating schedule from 33 CFR 117 Subpart B

will have no effect on the movement of waterway or land traffic.

*B. Impact on Small Entities*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

For the reasons stated in section V.A above this final rule would not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business.

If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

### C. Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

### D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Government

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. If you believe this rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

#### *E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### *F. Environment*

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01 and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969(42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule simply promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph A3 in Table 3-1 of U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementing Procedures 5090.1.

A preliminary Record of Environmental Consideration and a Memorandum for the Record are not required for this rule.

#### *G. Protest Activities*

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER**

**INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

**PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS**

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05-1; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

§ 117.771 [Amended]

2. In § 117.771:

- A. Remove paragraph (a) and redesignate paragraph (b) as paragraph (a), and;

- B. Redesignate paragraph (c) as paragraph (b), and;

- C. In the newly redesignated paragraph (b), remove “Bruckner Boulevard Bridge, mile 1.1 and the” and “both”.

Dated: July 29, 2019.

A. J. Tionson,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, First Coast Guard District  
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